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## Colombia

**Post:** Bogota

### Colombia Established Whey Import TRQ for 2010

**Report Categories:**

Dairy and Products

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**Report Highlights:**

The ministry of Agriculture provides import requirements for a whey import TRQ of 3,000 tons that may incentive imports from the United States.

**General Information:**

In June 2009, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Tourism established a whey import TRQ at 3,000 tons with an in quota duty set at 20 percent and an out-of-quota import duty of 94 percent. The Ministry of Agriculture issued Resolution 21 on January 18, 2010 that provides import requirements for whey imported under the TRQ. The TRQ again is set at 3,000 tons for totally or partially demineralized whey classified under the HS code 0404.10.10.00. Imports under the quota will pay the 20 percent import duty. The duty for out-of-TRQ imports is set once again at 94 percent.

The TRQ will be assigned in two tranches of 1,500 tons each. It is not yet known when the first tranche will be assigned by the Ministry of Agriculture, but it should happen sometime before the end of February. The second tranche is to be assigned between July 1 and 15, 2010. Companies interested in importing whey will have to apply for a TRQ certificate at the Ministry of Agriculture, which will allocate the TRQ among recognized companies that process whey for food or cosmetics production.

Exports of US whey to Colombia have been sporadic and small since 2000. The TRQ may provide the incentive needed for US exports to increase market share. Although Colombia historically imports only small amounts of whey, in the 1990's the United States was the main supplier. In 2009, Colombia imported approximately \$1.5 million worth of whey of which none of came from the United States.